

1 **CIVICS ENGAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2 2021 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

5 Senate Sponsor: _____

6

LONG TITLE

7 **General Description:**

8 This bill changes the start date of the civics engagement pilot program to the 2021-2022
9 school year.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

12 ▶ changes the start date of the civics engagement pilot program from the 2020-2021
13 school year to the 2021-2022 school year.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 AMENDS:

20 **53G-10-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 320

21

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

22 Section 1. Section **53G-10-204** is amended to read:

23 **53G-10-204. Civic and character education -- Definitions -- Legislative finding --**
24 **Elements -- Reporting requirements.**

25 (1) As used in this section:



28 (a) "Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which
29 promote an upright and desirable citizenry.

30 (b) "Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in
31 political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of
32 representative democracy in Utah and the United States.

33 (c) "Civics engagement pilot program" means the pilot program described in
34 Subsection (7).

35 (d) "Civics engagement project" means the civics engagement project described in
36 Subsection (7), which a student enrolled in a participating LEA may complete.

37 (e) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that meets the eligibility criteria, and is selected
38 by the state board, to participate in the civics engagement pilot program.

39 (f) "Values" means time-established principles or standards of worth.

40 (2) The Legislature recognizes that:

41 (a) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the public education
42 system's core mission as originally intended and established under Article X of the Utah
43 Constitution;

44 (b) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the constitutional
45 responsibility of public education and shall be a continuing emphasis and focus in public
46 schools;

47 (c) the cultivation of a continuing understanding and appreciation of a constitutional
48 republic and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States among
49 succeeding generations of educated and responsible citizens is important to the nation and
50 state;

51 (d) the primary responsibility for the education of children within the state resides with
52 their parents and that the role of state and local governments is to support and assist parents in
53 fulfilling that responsibility;

54 (e) public schools fulfill a vital purpose in the preparation of succeeding generations of
55 informed and responsible citizens who are deeply attached to essential democratic values and
56 institutions; and

57 (f) the happiness and security of American society relies upon the public virtue of its
58 citizens which requires a united commitment to a moral social order where self-interests are

59 willingly subordinated to the greater common good.

60 (3) Through an integrated curriculum, students shall be taught in connection with
61 regular school work:

62 (a) honesty, integrity, morality, civility, duty, honor, service, and obedience to law;

63 (b) respect for and an understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the
64 constitutions of the United States and of the state of Utah;

65 (c) Utah history, including territorial and preterritorial development to the present;

66 (d) the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system;

67 (e) respect for parents, home, and family;

68 (f) the dignity and necessity of honest labor; and

69 (g) other skills, habits, and qualities of character which will promote an upright and
70 desirable citizenry and better prepare students to recognize and accept responsibility for
71 preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured
72 by the constitution.

73 (4) Local school boards and school administrators may provide training, direction, and
74 encouragement, as needed, to accomplish the intent and requirements of this section and to
75 effectively emphasize civic and character education in the course of regular instruction in the
76 public schools.

77 (5) Civic and character education in public schools are:

78 (a) not intended to be separate programs in need of special funding or added specialists
79 to be accomplished; and

80 (b) core principles which reflect the shared values of the citizens of Utah and the
81 founding principles upon which representative democracy in the United States and the state of
82 Utah are based.

83 (6) In accordance with Section [53E-1-203](#), the state board shall report to the Education
84 Interim Committee the methods used, and the results being achieved, to instruct and prepare
85 students to become informed and responsible citizens through an integrated curriculum taught
86 in connection with regular school work as required in this section.

87 (7) (a) In accordance with this section, subject to appropriations by the Legislature for
88 this purpose, beginning with the ~~[2020-21]~~ 2021-2022 school year, the state board shall
89 administer a three-year civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods

90 for, implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for
91 receiving a high school diploma.

92 (b) The state board shall:

93 (i) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
94 Rulemaking Act:

95 (A) to create a civics engagement project that complies with core standards for Utah
96 public education for social studies and prepares students for lifelong civic motivation and
97 participation through applied learning of civics content;

98 (B) to establish eligibility requirements for participating LEAs;

99 (C) to create an application process for LEAs to apply to participate in the pilot
100 program; and

101 (D) for a report that a participating LEA is required to submit to the state board at the
102 end of the pilot program;

103 (ii) select participating LEAs:

104 (A) from diverse geographic areas within the state; and

105 (B) with a range of student population sizes; and

106 (iii) subject to appropriations by the Legislature for this purpose, in cooperation with
107 school districts, charter schools, and interested private and nonprofit entities, provide training
108 that prepares teachers in a participating LEA to assist students to successfully complete the
109 civics engagement project.

110 (c) A participating LEA shall submit a report to the state board in accordance with the
111 rules described in Subsection (7)(b)(i)(D).